

Greyhound FAQs

- **What ages are available and how long do they live?** Most retired racers are between 2 & 5 years old and have an average life expectancy of 12 - 15 years of age.
- **How tall are they, and how much do they weigh?** Racing greyhounds are between 24 to 28 inches tall at the shoulder and weigh between 50 and 80 lbs. Generally females are smaller than males.
- **Why MUST a Greyhound be kept on a leash?** Greyhounds have thousands of years of ancestry which tells them to follow their instinct and run without heed. The only exception to when they don't have to be leashed is when they are in a fully fenced area with gates closed and monitored. All responsible dog owners keep their dogs on a leash, regardless of the breed.
- **Can I use an overhead run or tie them out on a chain/rope?** NO!! Greyhounds can never be tied out on anything. They accelerate very quickly and can break a leg that becomes entangled or can literally break their neck once they reach the end of the line, since they reach such high speeds quickly.
- **Is a fenced yard necessary in order to adopt a greyhound?** If you have young children, a fenced yard is a requirement of adoption.
- **Are greyhounds good with Children?** Most Big Lick Greyhounds have been fostered by families with children. However, children need to be taught respect for animals. Greyhounds are gentle by nature.
- **Are Greyhounds compatible with other animals?** Yes, most are good with other animals. On the application, please indicate what animals you currently have. Some Big Lick Greyhounds have been fostered in homes that have cats. We teach you how to introduce the Greyhounds to your other animals.
- **Are Greyhounds suited for apartment life? Are they hyper? Do they require a lot of exercise?** Greyhounds are NOT HYPER! This is probably the most common misconception about greyhounds! They enjoy, but don't require, moderate exercise. They make good jogging companions after they have been properly conditioned for long distances. In reality, greyhounds are very much couch potatoes in the home and enjoy being with the family, therefore suiting them well in apartments!
- **Is it difficult to housebreak a greyhound?** At the track, greyhounds are used to being let out of their crates several times a day to exercise and relieve themselves. A similar routine in their new home makes housebreaking relatively easy. In addition, Big Lick Greyhounds have been fostered and learning house manners before adoption!
- **How long does it take for the greyhound to bond and adjust with me?** Because greyhounds are very friendly and thrive on human companionship, bonding usually occurs in a matter of days. Adjusting to a new environment and routine may take a few weeks. The older dogs tend to be better mannered from the start, while the younger are generally more curious and active.
- **Will my greyhound be altered and vaccinated before I adopt it?** Yes, ALL of the greyhounds we place are altered and vaccinated. In most cases, they are also checked for Heartworms.
- **Can I specify to adopt a male or female? Color?** Yes. Males and females are always available and make equally good pets. Color can be specified as well. We ask that you keep an open mind and let us help you find the pet that would best suit your needs and personality. Remember, Big Lick Greyhounds have been fostered, so we know their personalities and strengths/weaknesses. We want your canine to be your forever friend...so matching personalities is important!
- **How long does the adoption process take?** We start the process as soon as we get your application. It usually takes 1 to 3 weeks to get your dog. During this time, we ask that you get yourself and your home ready.
- **What do I need to do to get ready to bring my new Greyhound home?** Well, actually we will be bringing the greyhound to you. Until that time, please make sure you have a crate, bowls, blanket or bed, and dog food. Your greyhound has been eating Pedigree Adult dog food. To keep gas to a minimum, we suggest you maintain your dogs on the Pedigree. If you chose to switch them, please do so over time. Slowly add in new food to Pedigree, eventually ending up with less Pedigree and more new food. If you don't wish to crate your Greyhound, please talk to us first. Some of these Greys need to their crate, while some could care less. We need to know this so we know how to place. You won't need to worry about a collar/leash, as one will be coming home with you!